

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A Coanda flow amplifier (10, 10a, 10b, 10e), comprising:

a suction intake; (22, 22a, 22b, 22e),

an outlet; (24, 24a, 24b, 24e)

a fluid channel [(42)] extending between the suction intake (22, 22a, 22b, 22e) and the outlet; (24, 24a, 24b, 24e), and

a drive flow inlet (60, 602, 60b, 60e) that is in fluid flow communication ~~fluid-eonnection~~ with the fluid channel [(42)] via a drive-flow discharge slit; [(66),]

~~characterized in that wherein~~ the flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit [(66)] is variably adjustable.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the drive-flow discharge slit [[(66)]] can be completely closed.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 1, wherein or 2, characterized in that the Coanda flow amplifier (10, 10a, 10b, 10e) comprises a flow-guiding element [[(26)]] that is arranged between the suction intake (22, 22a, 22b, 22e) and the outlet, (24, 24a, 24b, 24e) and is axially displaceable along a longitudinal axis [[(L)]] of the Coanda flow amplifier, (10, 10a, 10b, 10e).

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 3, characterized in that wherein:

the suction intake (22, 22a, 22b, 22e) is arranged in a first housing section; [[(14)]] and

the drive-flow discharge slit [[(66)]] is formed between a downstream face [[(50)]] of the first housing section [[(14)]] and an upstream face [[(54)]] of the flow-guiding element, [[(26).]]

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in that wherein at least in [[the]] an area

of the drive-flow discharge slit [[(66)]], the flow-guiding element [[(26)]] is surrounded by a chamber [[(64)]] that connects the drive-flow inlet (60, 60a, 60b, 60e) with the drive-flow discharge slit. [[(66).]]

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 5, characterized in that wherein the auxiliary displaceable flow-guiding element [[(26)]] carries through to the second housing section [[(16)]] and is guided in the second housing section [[(16)]] in a sealed manner.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to one of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that claim 3, wherein:

the outlet (24, 24a, 24b, 24e) is arranged in a third housing section; and (18), whereby

a downstream section [[(36)]] of the flow-guiding element [[(26)]] protrudes into the third housing section [[(18)]] and is guided in the third housing section [[(18)]] in a sealed manner.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 7, wherein characterized in that a sealing element (38) to seal seals the flow-guiding element [[(26)]] against the third housing section; and [[(18)]]

the sealing element is arranged in a groove [[(40)]] formed on the third housing section [[(18)]] and works together with a circumferential surface [[(32)]] of the flow-guiding element. [[(26).]]

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to ~~one of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that claim 6, wherein~~ quasi-static sealing elements are provided to seal the flow-guiding element [[(26)]] against ~~at least one of the second and/or and~~ third housing section (16,18)-sections.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to ~~one of claims 3 to 9, characterized in that claim 3, wherein~~ an actuating element [[(68)]] is provided to effect the axial displacement of the flow-guiding element. [[(26).]]

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to claim 10, characterized in that wherein the actuating element [[(68)]] is a piezo actuator.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The Coanda flow amplifier according to ~~one of claims 10 or 11, characterized in that claim 10, wherein~~ the flow-guiding element [[(26)]] is resiliently pre-loaded in a direction opposite to

the fluid-flow direction [[(F)]] in the fluid channel [[(42)]] to close the drive-flow discharge slit [[(66)]] when the actuating element [[(68)]] is in its inactive state.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a Coanda flow amplifier ~~(10, 10a, 10b, 10e)~~ having a suction intake, an outlet, a fluid channel extending between the suction intake and the outlet, and a drive flow inlet that is in fluid flow communication with the fluid channel via a drive-flow discharge slit, wherein the flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit is variably adjustable; said method comprising:

feeding a fluid flow that is to be amplified to a suction intake; ~~(22, 22a, 22b, 22c),~~

feeding a drive-flow to [[a]] the drive-flow inlet; ~~(60, 60a, 60b, 60e), whereby the drive flow inlet (60, 60a, 60b, 60e) is fluid connected by a drive flow discharge slit (66) to a fluid channel (42) that extends between the suction intake (22, 22a, 22b, 22c) and an outlet (24, 24a, 24b, 24e),~~

echaracterized in that adjusting a variable flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit (66) is adjusted in such a way so that a pressure ratio between the output pressure of the drive flow when it leaves the drive-flow discharge slit [[(66)]] and an intake pressure of the drive flow when it enters the drive-flow discharge slit [[(66)]] does not exceed a critical pressure ratio.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13,
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the variable flow cross section of the drive-flow
discharge slit [[(66)]] is adjusted so that the pressure ratio between the output
pressure of the drive flow when it leaves the drive-flow discharge slit [[(66)]] and
the intake pressure of the drive flow when it enters the drive-flow discharge slit
[[(66)]] is equal to the critical pressure ratio.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system (80; 90)
comprising:

at least one fuel cell; (82, 92),

a fluid source; (82, 92),

a fluid line; (84; 100, 106, 112),

a Coanda flow amplifier (10, 10a, 10b, 10e) arranged in the fluid
line, with (84; 100, 106, 112), whereby both a suction intake (22, 22a, 22b, 22e)
and an outlet (24, 24a, 24b, 24e) of the Coanda flow amplifier (10, 10a, 10b, 10e)
are being fluid-connected to the fluid line (84; 100, 106, 112), and whereby a
drive-flow inlet (60; 60a, 60b, 60e) of the Coanda flow amplifier being (10, 10a,
10b, 10e) is fluid-connected to the fluid source; (88; 102, 110, 116),

~~characterized in that wherein~~ the Coanda flow amplifier (10, 10a, 10b, 10c) is a Coanda flow amplifier (10; 10a, 10b, 10c) according to one of claims 1 to 11. includes,

a suction intake;

an outlet;

a fluid channel extending between the suction intake and the outlet;
and

a drive flow inlet that is in fluid flow communication with the fluid
channel via a drive-flow discharge slit;

wherein the flow cross section of the drive-flow discharge slit is
variably adjustable.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to
claim 15, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the fluid line (84; 100, 106, 112) is a
purge-gas feed line [(84)] that is connected to the fuel cell, [(82).]]

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 15, characterized in that wherein the fluid line (84; 100, 106, 112) is a cathode gas supply line [[(100)]] that is connected to the fuel cell, [[(82).]]

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 15, characterized in that wherein the fluid line (84; 100, 106, 112) is a cold-starting-gas supply line that is connected to a cold-starting component.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 15, characterized in that wherein the fluid line (84; 100, 106, 112) is an exhaust-gas recirculation line (106, 112) for the recirculation of fuel cell exhaust gas.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 19, characterized in that wherein the exhaust gas recirculation line (106, 112) is an anode-exhaust-gas recirculation line [[(112)]] for the recirculation of anode exhaust gas and the anode gas is supplied to the fuel cell [[(92)]] from the fluid source, [[(116).]]